

United States Senator Chuck Grassley

Iowa

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Prepared Statement of Senator Chuck Grassley
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David Mitchell Rozga Act
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Last fall I spoke on the Senator floor about my growing concern over the increasing popularity of synthetic drug use. At that time, I spoke about a young constituent of mine named David Rozga, who had recently graduated from Indianola High School. Tragically, David's life was cut short after he smoked a product called K2 with some of his friends. David became highly agitated and terrified shortly after smoking this product and committed suicide roughly within two hours after the chemical drugs that comprised K2 entered his body. David's death, which occurred just over one year ago, might have been the first associated with synthetic drug use. Sadly, his death was not the last.

As a result of our strong belief that tough action must be taken to stop the growing use of K2 products, Senator Feinstein and I introduced the David Mitchell Rozga Act last March. This legislation will ban the synthetic compounds found in K2 products. As Chair and Co-Chair of the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control, Senator Feinstein and I held a hearing last April about the growing use of synthetic drugs. We heard testimony from the Drug Enforcement Administration, a community anti-drug coalition professional, and Michael Rozga, David Rozga's father. All witnesses testified that synthetic drug use is a fast growing problem and one in which strong action must be taken to stem its use.

Since that time we've learned about newer synthetic drug products emerging on the scene as well as the increasing deadly consequences of using these drugs. Last April, a 19 year old man from Blaine, Minnesota, died after snorting a substance called 2C-E. This man was attending a party in which he used this drug. Witnesses said shortly after snorting 2C-E this man began punching the walls, breaking items, and yelling. He then stopped breathing and died from cardiac arrest according to his autopsy. The doctors performing the autopsy stated this man did not have any prior condition that would have caused his heart to stop beating. Ten other people were also admitted to the hospital after using this same product but fortunately they survived. As a result of this incident, I joined Senator Klobuchar in introducing the Combating Designer Drugs Act of 2011. This legislation will ban additional chemicals such as 2C-E, which the Drug Enforcement Administration has identified as emerging synthetic drugs.

Additionally, last May, a 36 year old Tennessee man and father of two girls died after smoking a combination of bath salts, a form of synthetic cocaine, and K2, or products similar to K2. He was found in his home surrounded by synthetic drug packages. Doctors confirmed that he died from a

drug overdose in an autopsy. His sister stated that her brother started smoking these products because they did not show up on drug tests and he wanted to find a job.

These two examples are only a small sampling of the growing tragedy that involves synthetic drug use every day. The longer these drugs are allowed to be sold online or at local convenience stores will result in more cases of a family losing a child or a child losing a parent. Many of my colleagues on this panel have joined me in cosponsoring at least one of the three bills we are considering today. I know we believe all of these synthetic drug compounds are just as deadly and destructive as the others. That is why I along with my colleagues have decided to unite together to pass S.409, S.605, and S.839 to address the overall problem of synthetic drug use. Synthetic drug use has affected many people throughout the country and now is the time for our country to unite. We must speak with one loud voice that says these drugs are not acceptable and they need to be removed from our society. I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort before further tragedy occurs.